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Editor's note

By Lauren Rice
News editor

This issue discusses cannabis, climate change and racism — topics that have been shied away from and misunderstood.

We as journalists in all capacities have done exactly what we always strive to do: present issues in a way that is fair, accurate and balanced.

But I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the topics of cannabis and climate change are still what they have always been: intersectional.

Our current impressions of the cannabis industry and those who partake medically or recreationally may be colored by lasting impressions of the war on drugs. This war, however, was also colored by racism and intolerance of public advocacy.

According to a 2021 study by RAND McCauley Chair in Drug Policy Innovation Beau Miller; H. Guyford Stever University Professor of Operations Research and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College Jonathan P. Caulkins; Independent Researcher Michelle Kilborn; RAND Associate Policy Researcher Michelle Priest; and RAND Engineer Kristin M. Warren:

"Cannabis prohibition has created disparate harms — especially for Black, indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) — largely through arrest disparities for possession and their downstream effects. Addressing inequities is increasingly featured in discussions to legalize cannabis supply and adult possession for non-medical purposes."

It is also inescapably true that minority communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Redlining and environmental isolation have made sure of this — relegating persons of color to areas at higher risk for dangerous climate impacts.

In planning this issue, we were forced to make a few last-minute changes. But that's nothing compared to what the Central Michigan University community is currently parsing through. I was happy to make those changes. In this paper you will also find discussions of the happenings of this week: From inappropriate and insensitive statements to administration responses and student protests.

Just as each person does not experience parts of their identity and life individually, communities do not experience only one problem at a time. It has never been that simple.

This edition features conversations about climate change, cannabis and racism. Reader attention is strongly advised, and learning highly encouraged. In the end, if your beliefs are challenged, good.

Lauren Rice is 2023-24 Central Michigan Life *news editor and will serve as the 2024-25 editor-in-chief.*

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Sustainability isn't just environmental

What is the carbon footprint of CMU Michigan and the United States?

By Courtney Boyd
Staff reporter

Just outside the city limits, wind turbines slowly turn and catch the eye of those traveling U.S. 127. Similarly does the gray and black smoke coming out of the exhaust pipes of cars traveling down that same highway.

Renewable and non-renewable energy is all around Central Michigan University, but how is it affecting the state - and the world - at large?

Most non-renewable energy sources release carbon emissions: particles of carbon dioxide that get released into the atmosphere when fossil fuels like and are burned according to IEA. When too much carbon dioxide is in the atmosphere, it acts as a blanket on the Earth that warms the planet and causes global temperatures to rise.

According to the IEA, in 2023 the United States ranked second in the world for carbon emissions at a whopping 4.5 gigatonnes (or 4.5 billion tons) released in one year's time.

The country also had 13.3 tons per capita, or per person, through the year.

While the country has been reducing its coal usage, it also saw a decline in the use of renewable energy and two-thirds of the emissions came from electricity usage.

Michigan was one of 10 states that was a top contributor to this problem according to the U.S Energy Information Administration (EIA). The state was responsible for releasing 147.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2021. That is about half the weight of a blue whale.

Tracing the exact source of these emissions is no easy feat. Tao Zheng is a professor in the Geography and Environmental Studies Department at CMU,

Ella Miller | Staff photographer

Members of the Central Sustainability team pose for a photo in Central Sustainability's office Tuesday, April 2 in Dow Hall.

CM Life Photo | Aurora Abraham| File

Water moves along the Chippewa River in Chipp-a-Waters Park in this September 2020 file photo.

who has been working with other scientists both in and outside of the U.S., creating atmospheric greenhouse transport models.

These models work alongside towers and satellite observations to estimate carbon fluctuations from Earth's surface. While the towers can observe and calculate carbon dioxide concentrations closer to the Earth's surface, the satellite's wider range comes with its own complications.

"The satellite observation is far from ideal," Zheng said. "The ground track of NASA's OCO (Orbital Carbon Observatory) satellite is only several kilometers wide, and it can take 16 days for these tracks to circle the Earth."

Since 2014, Zheng has been researching and developing the models. He said the first step in development was a model that simulated how carbon flux from the Earth's surface transported in the atmosphere across the globe.

It wouldn't be until 2023 when he helped develop a new model that can trace backward in time to where the flux came from. He said this is one of the first steps toward his team's larger goal for the project.

"Our work is tracing it back to the source," Zheng said. "The ultimate goal is to figure out how much is emitted from each country, but we are far from that."

The project has been funded by NASA's Carbon Monitoring System Program. Zheng said a new funding from NASA's OCO program will extend their work until 2027.

Central footprint

The university released 45,240 tons of carbon emissions in 2020 according to the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report. This makes up roughly 0.03% of Michigan's carbon output and 0.001% of the country's that year.

Despite the numbers, Michigan has been taking steps to more sustainable living and in reducing its carbon footprint. In 2022, Gov Gretchen Whitmer launched the Michigan Healthy Climate Plan, with the goal of Michigan reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

The initiative has been responsible for many accomplishments, such as 16% renewable energy across the state, various sustainability-focused bills being passed and

CM Life Photo | Jack Reeber | File
A monarch butterfly rests on a flower outside the Brooks Hall Greenhouse, Sept. 25.

Jo Kenoshmeg | Visuals editor
Lauren Dey and others carry trash across train tracks on the campus of Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan, Saturday, October 21, 2023. Dey said the train tracks tend to be the most trash-filled area on campus.

plans to produce more electric vehicles.

The next Michigan Healthy Climate Plan Conference is scheduled for May 16 and 17 in Lansing. A full summary of the conference will be published on Michigan.gov following the event.

Creating a sustainable campus

CMU has its own sustainability initiatives and practices, such as special recycling drives, establishing campus gardens and the creation of an on-campus farmer's market. The university's sustainability office, Central Sustainability, is responsible for these initiatives.

An award-winning office run by nine student employees, Central Sustainability has been working to make the CMU community more sustainable since 2020.

Ava Brewer, Lauren Dey, Claire Deblanc and Zoey Archbold are four of the nine staff members in the office. All of them said they had an interest in sustainability prior to being hired. Archbold specifically recalled when Central Sustainability made a visit to her high school for a presentation, and that it was one of the things that convinced her to attend CMU.

"That was the first time I was told sustainability isn't just environmental," she said. "For the first time in my life, I saw all of my values line up, and I knew what I wanted to do."

Archbold's sentiment was echoed by the other members. The group said they have a "holistic" approach to sustainability that goes beyond caring for the environment, but also caring for mental health and also having compassion for those around them.

"We know how important community is when incorporating sustainability at CMU," Brewer said. "When you're in a space you care about and feel like you belong in, you want to take care of it."

Brewer said the office had experienced "huge growth" in its four years of existence, from building connections between the university and the city of Mount Pleasant through initiatives like the farmer's market and waste reduction, to on-campus partnerships and volunteer trips through Alternative Breaks.

Central Sustainability has also seen a growth in student support, something that's reflected in its four-year sustainability survey.

According to the survey report, there has been a 10% increase in students being familiar with the term sustainability, and increases in sustainability issues such as pollution, waste reduction and clean energy. In 2023, almost 90% of students who took the survey believe climate change is a human-created issue and needs to be addressed.

Deblanc said one contributor to this support is the way the office puts themselves out there, both physically and through social media.

"Having a physical office helps students see it (Central Sustainability) exists and that it matters," Deblanc said. "We've seen students and faculty respond to it, because it's one of these very visual things on campus."

One of Central Sustainability's biggest goals is longevity and continual growth.

"We always say sustainability is not a finish line," Dey said. "It's continuous. We can always continue achieving things and making them more accessible. ...Everything we do is about increasing accessibility."

Brewer said she wants Central Sustainability to last for years after the current members graduate. As a result, the office just hired four new students to help continue operations.

Throughout the month of April, the office is hosting a variety of Earth Month events, such as clean ups, walking tours, speaker events and workshops. Students can learn more about these upcoming events through its Instagram account and about what Central Sustainability does on its CMU webpage.

'The true cost is more than just the dollar' $

Think the only cost of your one-time clothing item is financial? Think again

By Lauren Pocica
Staff reporter

Ella Miller | Staff photographer

Senior Morgan Boosamra works on a design for the upcoming Threads Fashion Show Friday, March 22, in Wightman Hall.

Picking the right clothing pieces for an occasion such as a concert, a wedding or a Halloween costume have one thing in common: they're usually one-time use. The environmental impacts of our fashion choices is one not often thought about, especially when trying to keep up with today's fast-paced trends.

According to Close The Loop, 20% of global production waste, such as garbage, comes from textile and apparel.

Isabelle Telgenhof is a fashion merchandising major at Central Michigan University. She is also the media and public relations director for the 2024 Threads fashion show.

Telgenhof said fashion is one of the biggest waste contributors in the world.

"As soon as trends end or if specific pieces don't get sold, they end up in landfill," Telgenhof said. "Fast fashion pieces are not well-made garments so they don't last as long. Therefore, we find broken or ripped pieces that end up in the garbage."

Of the 100 billions of garments produced each year, 92 million tonnes end up in landfills, according to Earth.Org. That is approximately 101 million tons.

"Garments are a huge source of micro-plastics because so many are now made of nylon and polyester, both durable and cheap," according to Earth.Org.

Fast fashion and trend cycles

Telgenhof said fast fashion is interlinked with trend cycles in the fashion industry.

"Instead of having a full season of clothing, stores bring in new sets of clothing or new designs once or twice a week, every single day, pushing the cycle to go even faster," she said.

The younger generation, especially college students, are a highly-influenced group, Telgenhof said.

"We're very much persuaded into feeling like we need the newest thing," she said. "We don't have the most money because we are paying for school, so instead of being able to afford higher-quality products, we find the cheapest thing because that's what we can afford."

Marisa Fisher and Sophia Oster are both fashion merchandising majors and members of the Fashion Association of Merchandising and Design (FMD) in the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC).

Fisher said the trend cycle has shortened from around 20-30 years to 5-10 years. A trend cycle is a term used to describe the re-emergence of styles that have been used in the past, Fisher said.

"With such a fast trend cycle, companies know what people want and will make pieces as fast and with as little care as possible, just because it's a huge profit," Fisher said.

Oster said social media plays a big role in consuming fast fashion.

"Now we're seeing all of these trends at once, everybody wants to be part of it," Oster said. "It's increasing in speed as we see trends being recycled or new trends pop up."

Ian Mull is a professor in the Department of Interior Design, Fashion Design and Merchandising. Mull is also the faculty advisor for the Threads fashion show and co-advisor of FMD.

"Social media has accelerated that need and desire for products when they come out," Mull said. "It has definitely accelerated the cycle."

Instant gratification plays a role in overconsumption, Fisher said, which is one if of the biggest contributors to fast fashion.

"People buy things that they genuinely don't need," Oster said. "We live in a capitalist society, so they're pushing us to buy stuff; but in reality, most items you buy become impulse buys."

Mull said fast fashion's business model is to get fashion pieces into stores as quickly as possible. The model takes up to 15 days for a brand to come up with a concept and get it to the consumer, whereas the traditional model takes anywhere from six months to a year, Mull said.

This way, purchasing and receiving products immediately results in instant gratification, Mull said.

According to Earth.Org, fast fashion companies responsible include but aren't limited to:

- Zara - Putting out nearly 12,000 new designs and manufacturing 450 million clothing items everyday creating the fastest turnover process of 15 days.
- H&M - Previously known for putting harmful chemicals such as PFC's (perfluorinated compound), phthalates and AP/APEO's (Alkylphenol ethoxylates) in its products.
- Forever 21 - Almost exclusively makes their products out of synthetic fabrics which are not biodegradable or recyclable.
- Shein - Adds almost 500 products to their website everyday and sells more than 36 million pounds of products every year.

Environmental impacts

Fisher said almost all of fast fashion clothing is made of polyester, which is a synthetic fabric that ultimately releases toxins such as microplastics into the environment.

"(Polyester) doesn't break down the same way an organic fabric like cotton or wood does," Fisher said. "Due to trends, most of the clothing fast fashion produces instantly ends up going into a landfill because consumers don't want to waste time trying to figure out a good place to put it."

Lauren Dye is an environmental studies and Spanish major. She is also the sustainability coordinator for Central Sustainability, a group on campus that focuses on institutionalizing sustainability through projects, policy and education.

Dye said fast fashion is a huge contributor to greenhouse gasses.

"A lot of oil is needed in the production of a lot of clothes, as well as transporting the

Ella Miller | Staff photographer

ABOVE: Students shop for clothes at Swap and Shop Sunday, Nov. 19 in Finch Fieldhouse. 'It's something to give your items a new life, to come together through sustainability,' Amelia Klosowski, an organizer of the event said.

BELOW: CM Life illustration | Maddy Kerbyson

> The true cost is more than just the dollar. It's how we treat our society, how we treat our humans and how we treat our planet, so we have to be willing to pay for what it's going to be worth... because we're gonna have to clean up that mess.

Ian Mull

Professor in the Department of Fashion Design and Merchandising

clothes from different countries if they're not made locally," Dye said. "Additionally, a lot of clothes require a large amount of water usage, both in production and in the dyeing process, which also pollutes and contaminates the water."

The quality of clothes in fast fashion plays a part in how much waste comes from the fashion industry, Dye said.

"People will wear it one or two times, then throw it out," Dye said. "It's all about trying to stop the resources that are being used to make the clothes but also figuring out what to do with them when it's at the end of its life cycle."

According to Collective Fashion Justice, brands would burn and destroy clothes that are not sold, instead of giving them away, to protect their brand.

"We have to think about the next generation and the impact we're having environmentally,"he said.

"Whether it's about air quality, water quality or quality of life, it's important to acknowledge that the fashion industry works on a model of taking advantage of huge labor forces, where most of the profits go back to the brands, not the people," Mull said. "That's just not sustainable in the long run."

Mull said even with all the alternatives to throwing away fashion pieces, products are still ending up in the landfill.

"We find that those products aren't getting into the recycle stream as much as we think they are," Mull said. "They are still going into the landfill at too much of a rate to be sustainable."

Alternatives to throwing away fashion pieces are to recycle, up-cycle and donate, he said.

Up-cycling involves taking a garment and changing it to create a new style or fashion piece, Mull said.

Mount Pleasant has three thrift stores in the area to donate.

- Goodwill Store located at 4529 E. Blue Grass Rd.
- The Salvation Army Family Store & Donation Center located at 1717 S. Mission St.
- The Thrift Shop: Supporting Isabella Child Development Center (ICDC) located at 1008 W. High St.

It's important to be mindful of the true cost of our garments, Mull said.

"The true cost is more than just the dollar," Mull said. "It's how we treat our society, how we treat our humans and how we treat our planet, so we have to be willing to pay for what it's going to be worth...because we're gonna have to clean up that mess."

Situationship or stewardship?

EDITORIAL

The month of April is known for many different observances and holidays. One notable date that has been celebrated since 1970 is Earth Day, April 22.

As adults, we humans rely heavily on the environment and the resources that it provides. We often take and take without offering much thought to the environment itself. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created by Richard Nixon on Dec. 2, 1970, only 53 years ago.

As children, we are taught to love and respect the environment. We are often surrounded by environmental themes that come in all shapes and forms, from books such as "The Giving Tree" to educational shows like "Zaboomafoo." These themes are integrated into our lives at an early age and emphasize respecting the environment and the creatures that can be found within.

However, as we grow from school-age children to young adults, our concern for the environment decreases and it becomes less of a theme in the media we consume -- unless we seek it out ourselves.

Our already turbulent relationship with the environment may be similar to a situationship. We give and take from our natural resources without much consideration for commitment to educating ourselves on helping the environment and conservation efforts, while the environment itself exhausts itself to support us.

In recent years, the politics surrounding the environment and environmental issues have become aggressively controversial, with many conservatives defining topics related to the environment as the "liberal agenda." According to a March 1 article from the nonpartisan fact tank Pew Research Center, just 12% of Republicans/Republican learners view climate change as a top priority, compared to 59% of Democrats/Democratic-leaning independents.

During the four years of the Trump Administration, more than 100 environmental rules were rolled back, with areas primarily focusing on air pollution/emissions and drilling/extraction taking the biggest hit, found The New York Times.

At the same time, environmental advocates such as Greta Thunberg emerged with movements like Fridays for Future in August of 2018, bringing attention to global warming.

Though Thunberg's Fridays for Future became internationally recognized, other movements that individuals in their own homes can and have adopted have become popular in recent years. These movements include focusing on living a zero-waste, plastic-free, minimalist or even plant-based lifestyle.

However, the question lies within itself: Are our individual actions just as impactful as actions that can be implemented by major corporations and laws enacted by politicians? Even if our individual actions will make an impact, will we attempt to fix our estranged relationship with the environment?

Connection to CMU's Campus

At Central Michigan University, oftentimes, one would not hesitate when it comes to environmental themes or even issues on campus.

Except perhaps when a student is done with their to-go meal from the Merrill Virtual Food Hall and debating whether to throw away their container or recycle it.

Ava Brewer, a sustainability coordinator at the student-run office Central Sustainability, said some of the biggest environmental complaints she has heard are related to contamination in Mount Pleasant's recycling system. The complaints are derived from students not properly recycling due to different rules across the state of Michigan, which in turn contaminate the stream.

One of the many connections between residential halls/CMU students and the Mount Pleasant recycling stream is Green Teams, a program initiated within residential halls by sustainability officers to collect recycling and promote sustainability efforts on campus.

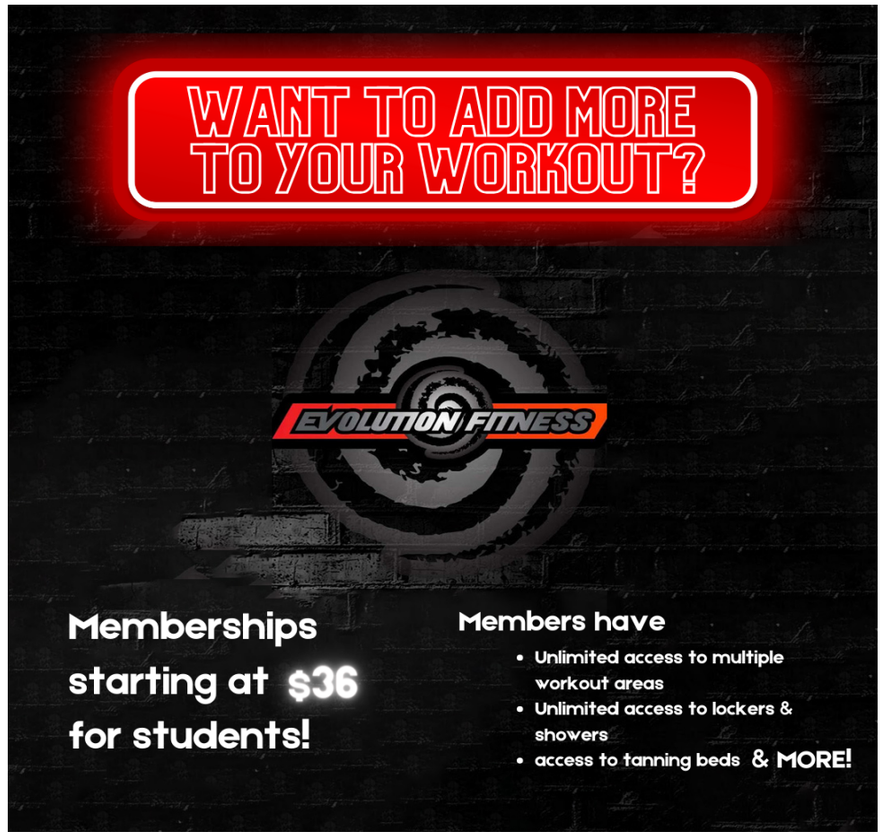
However, the lack of volunteers that Green Teams has made collecting recycling within the dorm halls difficult.

Though "environmental sustainability RSOs on campus are dying," Brewer said the sustainability legislation has been well received by CMU students and members of the Student Government Association (SGA).

Since Central Sustainability's launch in May 2020, the office has focused its mission on making practices and knowledge surrounding sustainability accessible to CMU students.

Beyond CMU's campus, the nationally accredited Chippewa Watershed Conservancy protects land in Central Michigan, with 19 nature preserves alone in Isabella County.

Connection to the State of Michigan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The State of Michigan itself faces various environmental concerns, such as algae blooms in the Great Lakes and contaminants in drinking water such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The Food and Drug Administration defines PFAS as chemicals resistant to heat, water, oil and grease.

Currently, The Department of Attorney General faces legal challenges brought by 3M, a multinational conglomerate, regarding Michigan's PFAS drinking water rules.

Attorney General Dana Nessel issued a press release on April 10 expressing her concern about 3M's opposition to PFAS rules.

"My office has tirelessly defended the sound, science-based limits on PFAS developed by the State to protect our drinking water supplies. EPA's new standards support what we have been saying all along – the PFAS limits in drinking water are important and defensible – and 3M's self-serving challenge to our rules is meritless."

But recently, Michigan isn't catching eyes due to the environmental concerns it is facing. Rather, Michigan is catching eyes for being a climate haven.

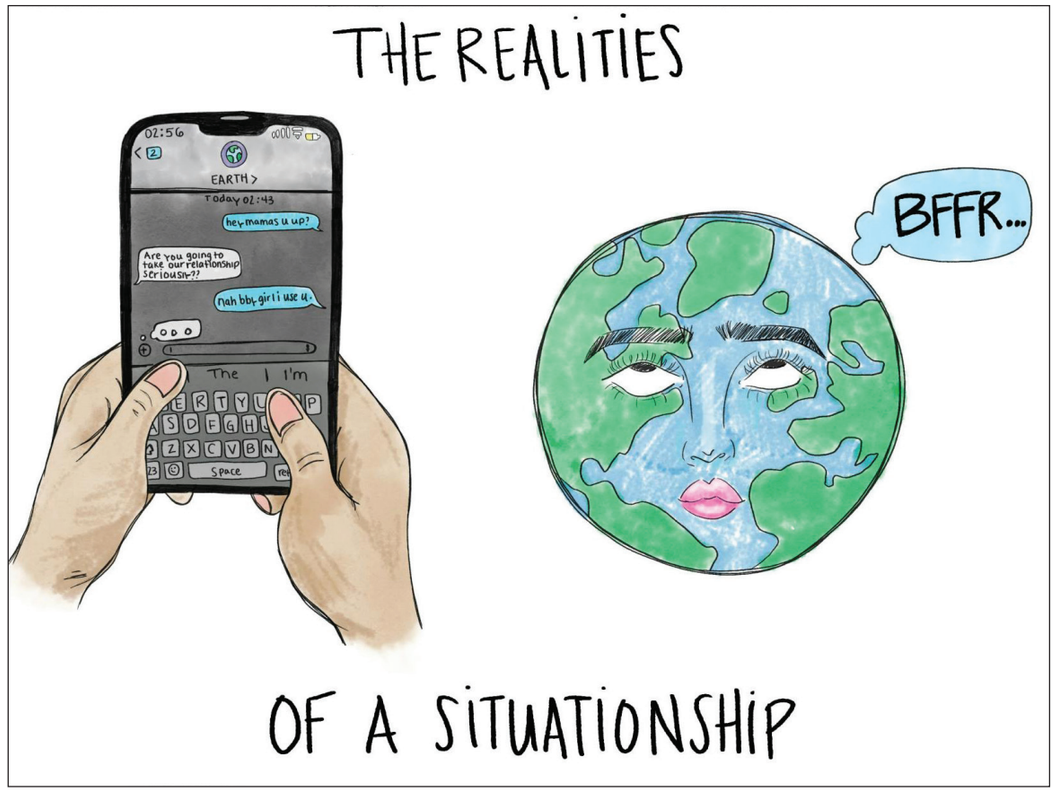
Within the United States, areas such as the Midwest, parts of the Great Plains and the inland Northeast could offer refuge for those trying to escape issues associated with global warming, according to The New York Times.

Refuge may be found in these climate havens as the weather is far less extreme than in other areas. Phoenix, Arizona, for example, is suffering from increased temperatures and air quality concerns, according to the Arizona Mirror.

With little over 10 million people in the State of Michigan, per the U.S. Census Bureau, the unknown impact of increasing numbers of climate refugees moving to the state is one of many questions one can ask themselves when thinking about the overall environment we live in.

Beyond that, we must also consider our impact on the environment and what we can do, such as being conscious of energy use and minimizing purchases from companies who do not follow through on their promises regarding sustainability efforts and ethics.

Though we may consider our actions to support the environment individually, our combined efforts and voicing our concerns can make a big step toward supporting the essential resources that keep us alive.



CM Life cartoon | Nico Mendoza

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Trustee-Student Liaison Committee hears from student reps

By Masha Smahliuk
News editor

Ahead of their full session on Thursday, the Central Michigan University Board of Trustees had a meeting of the Trustees-Student Liaison Committee.

Student Government Association President Tyler Zimmerman started the meeting with acknowledging the events of racial slurs that took place on campus April 15.

"Our institution has been confronted with incidents involving the use of deeply hurtful and divisive slurs," Zimmerman said. "Our campus should be a place where every individual feels safe, valued and empowered to thrive academically, socially and personally. Yet when incidents like this occur, it undermines the very foundation of our commitment to fostering an environment of diversity, equity and belonging."

Junior Kendall Wallace joined the Board's meeting to share that the events have impacted her personally.

"We believe that the best way to condemn these hate speech allegations and events is also the simplest, which is to ensure the faculty and students are always educated on how racism and racial injustices affect us all as a campus," Wallace said.

Wallace shared a list of commands for the Board that she developed with other African American students. In it, she said she would like to see expulsion, suspension or academic probation of the students who have used the racial slurs.

If that isn't possible, Wallace asked to mandate a zero-credit remedial racism course for those students and for this situation to remain on their public records.

Wallace also asked to implement a zero-tolerance policy for hate speech and racism in the Code of Conduct and to mandate a course or training for all incoming students and faculty on racism and discrimination education.

"We would also like to see a prioritization and funding for DEI programs such as IMPACT, which is something that was also stated in the five-year (strategic) plan," Wallace said. "But we would like to see this be more prioritized ... because of the fact that a lot of students do not feel that they have enough safe spaces to go to as people of color."

Trustee Sharon Heath said the events have hit personally, and she promised that the Board will take action.

"We feel the pain," Heath said. "Some of us know the pain personally and some of us know it, not in relationship to racism by being discriminated against in other ways ... It's a personal thing for me and my colleagues to make sure that this doesn't happen.

"I tell you what, some of the things that are on your list, whoever is involved with (using racial slurs), they probably need to figure out where to work and where to finish out their classes, because they may not be here."

At the meeting, Zimmerman also introduced the new SGA executive board, effective next academic year. They are: President Carolina Hernandez Ruiz, Vice President Aashka Barot and Treasurer Akua Acheampong.

Hernandez Ruiz and Acheampong both spoke at the meeting, condemning the racist events and sharing their vision for their leadership.

"I'm still angry," Acheampong said. "I've been for a while. I know we've said before that it's not just about the word, but the root of the word and its usage and the impact of that word.

"Although I agree with remediation, as some of my fellow students have suggested, I personally advocate very strongly for expulsion and removal of the staff."

In other events at the meeting, future student leadership for the Program Board and Resident Housing Association also introduced themselves at the meeting.

Current SGA Vice President Ryan Biller gave a report on SGA's accomplishments this year involving guest speakers, freedom of expression meetings, committee events, creation of judicial branch and other notable achievements.

Zimmerman brought up a $5 environmental fee legislation for the Board to vote on later, which SGA has already approved.

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MICHIGAN'S GREEN MACHINE

How cannabis is shoring up the state's economy

Budding business and green growth

By Renae King
Staff reporter

The rich, earthy aroma of cannabis fills the air, as a diverse array of adult customers flow in and out of The Woods in a steady stream. This scene has become a familiar sight at many recreational cannabis establishments across the state since its legalization in 2018.

Since then, the industry has experienced a surge, reaching new heights of popularity and demand.

In 2023, Michigan surpassed $3 billion in marijuana sales, according to the Cannabis Regulatory Agency. This was roughly $760 million more than what the state made in 2022.

The total sales made in 2023 amounts to about $305 worth of marijuana per capita – surpassing any other state in the nation, according to Marijuana Moment.

With the legalization of recreational marijuana, medical marijuana sales in the state have declined. In 2020, sales for medical marijuana was at $474 million; however, that number has since decreased by almost 83% to just $81 million this past year.

And as the demand for recreational marijuana grows, more cannabis businesses are emerging in the state.

Along with more business, cannabis industries are impacting local communities by bringing in more jobs and tax money, as well as improving the local infrastructure.

The shift has been felt in many communities across Michigan, including Mount Pleasant.

The History of Cannabis in Mount Pleasant

On Sept. 9, 2019, the Mount Pleasant City Commission approved a motion that allowed recreational marijuana establishments to operate in the city. However, the ordinance allowed for only three recreational licenses in the city.

One license belonged to JARS Cannabis and the other two belonged to two different Lume Cannabis locations.

Mount Pleasant City Commissioner Elizabeth Busch said this left residents with little variety.

"We wanted consumers to have a choice and it just felt like that limited their choice," she said. "So that's kind of one of the ways where the discussion got started."

In 2022, conversations about revising the licensing regulations and the cap on the amount of licenses allowed in the city started back up.

After some back and forth about the amount of licenses to allow, the commissioners decided on May 23 of that year to completely eliminate the cap.

Despite initial community hesitations about a potential influx of retailers, Busch said she emphasized the self-regulatory nature of the market.

"The market will balance itself out," she said. "Business owners are smart, and if there's already 10 dispensaries in town, they maybe know it's not the time to open up another one."

The economic impact

Busch said there were many advantages for allowing more dispensaries into the city including:

- receiving more state tax money;
- Buildings being renovated and put back on the tax roll;
- and bringing more business and jobs to the community.

According to the Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency, Mount Pleasant, as of March 2024, is home to nine adult-use marijuana retailers, which are the only retailers located in Isabella County.

CM Life photo illustration | Nico Mendoza

Busch said the city received roughly $300,000 in taxes from cannabis businesses in 2023 alone. This is the second year the city has received income from these businesses, which goes toward the city's general fund.

Patrick Kettler, the director of retail operations for Pure Options, said municipalities and other areas that opt in tend to see an increase in business, not just in the cannabis industry, but in other areas as well.

"What you have now is people who may be driving there to buy cannabis, they may visit local restaurants, they may visit local gas stations, things like that while they're on their way," he said.

On top of bringing in more business, Busch said the industry has also brought more people to the city through jobs, and that it's something the city should take advantage of.

"We are in the center of the state," she said. "As more and more people are growing legally, we could really take advantage of our location and be a source of jobs. There are already a lot of people who work in the marijuana industry here, so that's what I'm hoping we can really hang on to ... the jobs."

Another reason Busch said she has supported more cannabis businesses coming to the city has been because of their efforts to renovate buildings.

"(The city) give awards to the buildings that have done the most in terms of improving a business front, and the last three years it's been marijuana licenses because they're renovating and building good buildings here in Mount Pleasant," she said.

Busch said the most recent winner of the 2023 commercial Community Improvement Award was The Woods, which had its grand opening on Jan. 27 of this year.

See GROWTH | 14

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HIGH SOCIETY CANNABIS

M.I.JANE

GROWTH

CONTINUED FROM 12

The award does not give any monetary contribution, but does provide a frame with a professional photo of the establishment.

Andrew Wirley, the store manager of the Woods, said the business has seen improvement over the past couple of months.

"It was a slow start at first just because this is one of our first places that we've had a lot more cannabis competition," he said. "But in Mount Pleasant we're doing pretty good."

Shifting community perceptions

Shifting attitudes towards cannabis have also helped the industry's growth in the state.

After adult-use cannabis was legalized, Kettler said many were and still are hesitant of cannabis industries in their local communities.

"There's still a taboo, but we're seeing that taboo start to go away a little bit," he said. "Every year less and less people become judgmental."

After working in the cannabis industry for two years, Wirley said he's noticed the same thing.

"Two years ago, you talked about cannabis and they always tell you, 'Hey, we want nothing to do with that,'" he said. "But now everybody's kind of more open about just accepting it."

Busch said in conversations with the community, there are still people opposed to cannabis businesses coming to the city.

"I know it still might be frustrating to some people who don't necessarily want to see the cannabis stores around," she said. "But my thought is, I would much rather see a nicely built and maintained cannabis store with good lighting and a nice parking lot than an abandoned, boarded up building on our main drag."

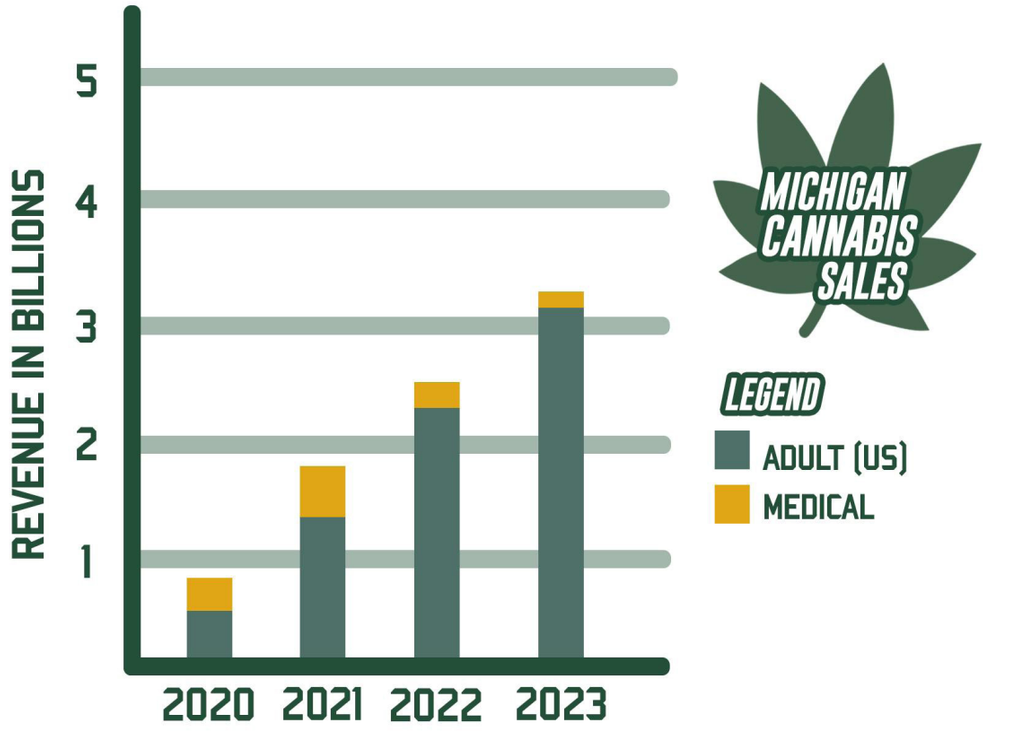
The future of cannabis in Michigan

Looking ahead, both Kettler and Wirley are hopeful for the cannabis industry's growth in the state.

"Michigan, out of any of the states, has one of the largest purchasing demographics," Kettler said. "The progression continues to go up. And the more municipalities that opt in, you're going to see the economy in that area continue to grow."

Wirley said he sees the cannabis industry continuing to grow; however, he said cannabis becoming federally available could pose some potential challenges to smaller companies.

"Having personality on your own shops and being able to not have Uncle Sam (the federal government) or anybody looking over you and having more of a grasp in it allows us to make it as open and accessible to everyone," he said. "I think it's going up and it's going in a good direction."



CM Life infographic | Kailey Hill

However, Busch said cannabis becoming federally available is almost inevitable.

"This is the direction that the country is moving in," she said. "But that's another reason why I wanted to put my posting on the map before it was that way."

A national cannabis boom

Legal cannabis is driving economic change all around the United States.

Starting with California in the late 1990s, states began to pass medical marijuana laws. Today, nearly 80% of U.S. states have legal medical marijuana and nearly half have recreational legality too, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

In Michigan, medical marijuana was legalized in 2008, and recreational legalization came ten years later.

In 2024, the U.S. is expected to generate the highest revenue globally in the cannabis market, with an estimated $42.98 billion, according to Statista, an online data gathering platform.

The current U.S. administration has shown more attention to the cannabis industry, with increased research and pardoning cannabis-related crimes, according to Cannabis Business Times

Federally, cannabis has been a Schedule I drug, along with heroin and LSD, since President Richard Nixon's Controlled Substances Act of 1970 became effective.

However, times are changing, and many believe cannabis will soon be federally legal as more states incorporate it into their economy.

Some experts, like cannabis law firm Ice Miller, think 2024 could be the year for cannabis legalization.

With 24 states and the District of Columbia having legal recreational marijuana, only 10 states are needed to join in, in order to "force" federal change.

Under the Article V Convention, states can apply to propose an amendment. If two-thirds of the states, or 34, apply for a convention, Congress must convene one, according to the U.S. Constitution.

"With Congress remaining out of step with most of their constituents who support legalization, states forcing their hand may be what it takes to see action on the issues," according to Ice Miller.

Cannabis Business Times identified 11 states on its radar for legalization this year including Wisconsin, Florida, Hawaii, South Dakota, Idaho, New Hampshire, Nebraska, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Florida, Idaho, Nebraska and South Dakota currently have campaigns aiming to put legalization questions before their voters in the November 2024 election.

In 2022, President Biden directed the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to reconsider the federal drug classification of marijuana, according to Forbes. Last fall, the DHHS issued a recommendation to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) that marijuana be reclassified from a Schedule I to a Schedule III drug.

"Rescheduling cannabis to Schedule III would have major consequences," Ice Miller wrote. "The move would deal a blow to the stigma against cannabis and spell the end of discriminatory cannabis tax provisions that have crippled industry growth."

A decision from the DEA is expected in early to mid-2024, according to Ice Miller.

Senior reporter Aurora Rae contributed to this report.

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How CMCREW gives love on road to recovery

By Nchiewe Ani
Staff reporter

EDITOR'S NOTE: Responses are edited for length and clarity.

Central Michigan Collegiate Recovery Education (CMCREW) is a safe space that provides an opportunity for students to live free from the burden of alcohol and other substance abuse, said site coordinator Kayleigh Gotts.

CMCREW provides services that promote wellness of the body and mind. It offers a platform for students struggling with drug misuse (cannabis, nicotine, cocaine, tobacco, Adderall or any study drug) and educates them on how to make informed choices that would better their health.

In order to provide support for students having problematic relationships with certain substance misuse, CMCREW adopts various initiatives and interventional models, including networking with other organizations to ensure that these students are able to fully recover and also achieve academic excellence in their respective careers.

CMCREW holds free virtual trainings on request for different groups like faculty, staff and students. It conducts educational sessions on problematic usage of drugs like cannabis, and safe space training for LGBTQ+ safety. Virtual presentations also include recovery-friendly language, as well as educational seminars on stigma associated with substance use disorders.

There are other similar collegiate recovery programs found in Ferris State University, Delta College and Mid-Michigan University.

Central Michigan Life sat down with Gotts and Jessica Miller, the collegiate recovery program manager, to talk about the activities of CMCREW at Cental Michigan University.

[Could you throw more light on specific CMCREW events?]

Miller: We aim to normalize social events that don't involve the use of alcohol or other drugs. The perception amongst college students is that "everybody's doing it," but the reality is that not everybody's doing it.

So, the more that we can put out a message that more students are not engaging in high risk, alcohol and other drug use, we hope we can change that perception.

The introduction to alcohol intake is something that is naturally a part of this time of life in ages 18 to 25, and they are told that there are minimal consequences to their use. Although for some people that is true, there are those students who find that they develop a problematic relationship with the intake of alcohol or the use of other substances. They get to know that interferes in their ability to complete their academic and personal goals and do not know what to do about this -- that's where we come in as CMCREW.

This program is designed as a support system, so that students do not have to choose between their recovery and getting a higher education. ... We want CMCREW to be a space where those students can find each other and build community with each other.

We have peer recovery support groups, which we call our recovery groups of care. CMCREW provides an opportunity for these students to come together and share some of their personal unique experiences, as well as support each other on their road to recovery.

Q&

We're not a program of recovery. We want to make that very clear. We're not trying to compete with any groups out there. We are specifically designed as an on-campus support system for students.

We encourage students to get involved in off-campus recovery opportunities because we aren't open 24/7. Recovery community off-campus is ... for students that are looking to connect with other students specifically and want

to be encouraged and validated in their experience, this is a safe place for them to do that.

Through one-on-one coaching with Gotts, (it) provides a wellness plan with them looking at various life domains in the peer group meetings.

We also are open to helping students that are impacted by somebody else's alcohol or drug use, because there may be students here on campus that are used to being a caretaker for maybe a parent or maybe their partner ... and that's impacting them academically. We want to be able to support these students as well.

[Why is this program important to you?]

Miller: I am a person in long-term recovery. For me that means I haven't used alcohol or drugs since Feb. 23, 2013. These types of services that CMCREW now provides was not available to me while I was in college. All the information that I got shared with me when I was in college about alcohol and other drugs was part of "Just say no to substance use."

Nobody ever talked to me about it in anyway; that is, it was just never talked about. I never felt heard, I never felt comfortable to ask questions about it.

And so, this work is important because we are really trying to create an environment that is open to students being able to ask questions such as, "Do I want to keep using substances or not? Where can I get help with substance use?"

The only agenda we have is that we don't want alcohol and other drugs to get in the way of students completing their academic pursuits. So, we just want to have a real conversation about it without any finger wagging or judgment.

We want it to be automatic that people think about us when they think about a resource for students struggling with alcohol and other drug use or a student that's looking for support with their recovery.

We hope to get our name out there as best we can in collegiate recovery programs. Not every school has one. So, it really is a privilege for the students here to be able to have us here and we feel very fortunate to be able to be here.

Gotts: This is important to me (because), first and foremost, I come from a family with a very long history of substance use disorder. I lost my father to alcohol use disorder in 2018 when I was still a student at Central. I am a firm believer that if something like this were available to him when he went to college, that maybe his life would have looked vastly different.

Secondly, I graduated from Central with a bachelor's in social work and I have a passion for working with college students. I love this opportunity, and Central is my home. If I can provide the best experience for the students here, I'm happy with that.

[What does your typical day look like?]

Gotts: So, one of the benefits of this position is that every day is a little bit different, however, a typical day is as follows: I get here at 8 a.m., and I might have a session with a student to do some wellness coaching.

I could have an early intervention,meeting with a student who was referred to us for risky behavior or risky substance behavior, which is also a one-on-one thing.

I may have an all-recoveries peer support group. So, sometimes, I'll be preparing for recovery sports support. Everyday looks a little bit different.

Miller: Gotts is always doing ongoing professional development training. She's interacting with other collegiate recovery coordinators around the country. Spending, lab time planning for different events that are coming up.

[Do you have an emergency line?]

Gotts: We always refer students to other 24-hours crisis management program if they're having a mental health crisis after work hours. We are not designed to be 24/7 accessible. So, we would refer students to contact organizations like Listening Ear or contact suicide helplines, if they needed some service right away.

CMCREW is located in Foust Hall 133, and can be reached by calling 989-774-2739 and emailing CMCREW@cmich.edu or gotts1km@cmich.edu.

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Nipping taboo in the bud

A deep dive into the biology, health impact and classification of cannabis

By Nelson Bronya
Staff reporter

The topic of cannabis evokes diverse viewpoints, ranging from its perceived role as a rebellious substance to its potential as a medical solution. This multifaceted plant holds more intricate narratives than any drama.

From researchers seeking scientific truths to poets weaving metaphorical tapestries, and even conspiracy theorists crafting narratives fueled by speculation, cannabis draws intrigue across diverse fields. While some nations maintain restrictive policies, individuals around the world engage with the plant for various reasons — leading to both societal stigma and religious interpretations.

Beyond these polarized perspectives lies a nuanced reality. Cannabis encompasses diverse strains like sativa and indica, each offering unique properties. Further complexity arises from hybridized variants, often categorized as 1, 2 or 3.

Additionally, distinct compounds like cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) interact with the body and brain in distinct ways, prompting ongoing debates about their potential benefits and risks.

Geography and terminology

Cannabis sativa thrives in hot and dry areas with long periods of sunlight, predominantly found in regions such as Africa, Central America, Southeast Asia and certain sections of Western Asia, according to the health information provider Healthline.

Cannabis indica, an annual plant species in the Cannabaceae family, thrives in regions like China, India, Nepal, Thailand, Afghanistan, Pakistan and parts of southern and western Africa, Healthline reported.

While traditionally classified as energetic and relaxing, this binary categorization is a simplification when it comes to sativa and indica strains, according to Healthline. The actual effects depend on many factors, including individual differences, growing conditions and the specific terpenes present.

Most commercially available strains are hybrids, combining characteristics of both sativa and indica, leading to a wider spectrum of potential effects.

Historically, Sativa strains have been linked to lower levels of CBD and higher levels of THC, in comparison to indica strains. This oversimplified generalization is being progressively questioned by the emergence of "chemovars," according to Healthline.

Chemovars classify cannabis according to its chemical profile, which contains a broader spectrum of cannabinoids and terpenes, in addition to CBD and THC, Healthline reported. This approach recognizes the possibility of varied outcomes within each strain, surpassing the often-linked notions of sativa and indica as solely providing a mind high and relaxation.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable transition in the cannabis industry, moving away from the traditional indica-sativa categorization of cannabis strains to the chemovars approach.

The concept of chemovars provides a more accurate and unbiased framework that relies on the chemical composition of strains, hence facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of each strain's specific impacts, according to the health information provider.

In a nutshell:
Type I: High THC
Type II: THC/CBD combined
Type III: High CBD

Nico Mendoza | Visuals editor
A cannabis flower blooms Friday, February 16, at Pure Options' grow facility in Lansing.

Understanding Cannabis

As the primary psychoactive compound, THC is responsible for the "high" feeling and euphoria associated with cannabis use. However, a study published by the National Library of Medicine suggests it may also contribute to adverse effects like anxiety and impaired memory.

Unlike THC, CBD does not produce psychoactive effects. It's known for its potential anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving properties, though further research is needed to solidify its therapeutic benefits, the same study said.

According to a study published by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), cannabis works by acting on the endocannabinoid system. It does so primarily through its cannabinoids binding to receptors found in the central nervous and immune systems, the study said.

CB1 receptors influence mood, memory and movement, according to the NIDA. It's also responsible for psychoactive effects.

CB2 receptors, which are primarily located in the immune system and peripheral organs, may play a role in pain management and inflammation, the study said.

According to the NIDA, THC quickly enters the brain and other tissues after ingestion, due to its high-fat solubility. Depending on metabolism, its effects peak within 30 to 60 minutes and last for 3 to 4 hours.

Smoking marijuana allows THC to rapidly enter the bloodstream and reach the brain and other organs, the study said. When consumed orally, THC is absorbed more slowly, taking effect after 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Individual responses to cannabis vary greatly. Factors like genetics, metabolism and prior experience influence the effects felt, the study said.

Benefits and medicinal use of cannabis

According to the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, cannabis has numerous benefits and medicinal uses beyond its recreational effects. Its antioxidant properties, including CBD and THC, help neutralize harmful free radicals, reducing the risk of chronic diseases like cancer and heart disease, the journal reported.

CBD has shown promise as a neuroprotective agent, protecting the brain from damage caused by conditions like Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and strokes. THC stimulates the production of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), supporting brain health and cognitive function, the journal found.

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DogHouse: April 20th **B1G1 Pre-Rolls**

TABOO

CONTINUED FROM 18

According to a study on cannabinoids' anti-inflammatory characteristics by the National Library of Medicine, both THC and CBD possess anti-inflammatory properties, making cannabis a potential treatment for inflammatory conditions such as arthritis, multiple sclerosis and inflammatory bowel disease.

CBD has gained recognition for its ability to reduce the frequency and severity of seizures in patients with epilepsy, the study found. Epidiolex, a CBD-based medication, has been approved by the FDA for certain types of epilepsy.

According to the journal Consciousness and Cognition, published by ScienceDirect, cannabis tends to increase creativity, not just by itself, but by increasing openness to trying different ideas without fear of failure and reducing anxiety. This increased openness and reduced anxiety can lead to a more relaxed state of mind, allowing individuals to think more freely and explore unconventional ideas.

Moreover, cannabis has been found to enhance divergent thinking, which is the ability to generate multiple solutions or possibilities for a given problem or situation, the journal said.

According to the published Journal of Sexual Medicine, gender and individual variations in metabolism and sensitivity to cannabinoids can also have an impact on the effects of cannabis. Women may experience different effects from cannabis use, including more severe withdrawal symptoms and a higher risk of relapse when quitting. These gender-specific effects are influenced by hormonal differences, brain receptor variations and individual responses, the journal found.

Adverse effects

But not all the evidence points to medical benefits.

According to the Journal of Sexual Medicine, a study on cannabis consumption impacting sexual health found that women who use cannabis were more likely to report sexually transmitted illnesses than men. Additionally, frequent cannabis use is associated with higher numbers of sexual partners for both men and women, delayed or premature ejaculation, and difficulty maintaining an erection. Excessive cannabis use can lead to an "inability to perform," the journal said.

According to a study published by the National Library of Medicine, male cannabis use has been associated with reduced fertility and decreased sperm counts. Cannabis use has been linked to altered sperm DNA methylation in humans and rats, with prenatal exposure to THC also causing neurobehavioral and neurochemical changes.

Prenatal exposure to cannabis has been linked to adverse birth outcomes, neurodevelopmental delays, autism-like phenotypes, congenital birth defects and teratologies in children, the study said.

According to a study published on Drug And Alcohol Dependence, chronic use of recreational cannabis can impact speech and reduce verbal timing. The research indicates that regular cannabis users may exhibit changes in articulation and pronunciation, leading to a unique speech pattern.

The study compared speech of cannabis users and non-users and later identified differences, in timing, vocal effort and voice quality. The findings suggest that cannabis alters speech production subtly, particularly in vocal effort and intensity, highlighting the enduring effects of cannabis on speech patterns.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over time chronic cannabis use raises anxiety levels through G-protein-coupled receptors and the CB1 receptor system. Mental health disorders like social anxiety, depression and schizophrenia are associated with marijuana use. Depression also increases with time, with or without initial depression episodes before starting cannabis use.

The CDC also found that chronic cannabis users who intake cannabis more than twice per week have been shown to have mental health disorders later in life, as well as four times the risk of bipolar disorders in life.

According to the Lancet psychiatry study published by the National Library of Medicine, cannabis potency, the concentration of THC, has increased globally, potentially increasing the risk of adverse health outcomes for cannabis users.

A systematic review of 4,171 articles by Lancet Psychiatry found that higher-potency cannabis was associated with an increased risk of psychosis and cannabis use disorder (CUD).

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These products can lead to dependence or addiction due to their intense effects, the study said.

THC interacts with the brain's endocannabinoid system, affecting reward pathways, memory and motivation. Regular use can lead to tolerance and withdrawal symptoms. Psychological vulnerabilities, such as genetic factors or pre-existing mental health conditions, may exacerbate addiction, the study said.

The efficient delivery method of smoking or vaping increases the likelihood of addiction. Social and cultural factors, such as availability and acceptance, also contribute to the risk of CUD, the study said.

According to the CDC, smoking and vaping have severe negative consequences — regardless of the substance. Both can lead to serious health issues, such as lung damage, respiratory problems and an increased risk of developing cancer, the CDC said. Additionally, the addictive nature of both practices can have detrimental effects on one's overall well-being and quality of life.

Marijuana use has significant impacts on brain health, particularly in developing brains in babies, children and teenagers, the CDC said. Those B1 and CB2 receptors are present throughout development, and are particularly important for neurodevelopment and wiring.

The CDC also mentioned that using cannabis during pregnancy has profound negative consequences for a fetus' developing brain. It particularly has an impact on problem-solving skills, attention and memory problems later on in the child's life.

Dispelling Myths

Some believe that secondhand marijuana smoke poses no harm. According to the CDC, secondhand marijuana smoke contains numerous dangerous chemicals, similar to those found in secondhand tobacco smoke.

Studies have found strong associations between having someone in the home who uses marijuana and a child having detectable levels of THC through secondhand smoke, the CDC said.

People exposed to secondhand marijuana smoke can experience psychoactive effects, such as feeling high, the CDC concluded.

These substances, according to the CDC, can also irritate the lungs and airways, leading to respiratory ailments like bronchitis and asthma. Furthermore, inhaling secondhand marijuana smoke can compromise blood vessel function, putting one at greater risk of heart disease, the CDC said.

Exposure to secondhand cannabis smoke can have negative health effects on anyone, irrespective of their pre-existing conditions, the CDC said. Vulnerable populations, such as children, pregnant women and older adults, are at even greater risk, the CDC said.

Nico Mendoza | Visuals Editor

A cannabis plant grows Friday, February 16, at Pure Options' facility in Lansing.

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Advocacy for accountability

CMU students protest and start petition to address CMU student and staff member saying racial slurs

By Zipporah Abarca and Lauren Rice
Editor-in-Chief and News Editor

Rain and thunder loomed over students as they stood outside the Bovee University Center for an Anti-Racist protest Wednesday, as a result of recent events. As the rain picked up, students filed into the UC and continued the protest with the university's support.

The protests were sparked by two incidents that happened in quick succession: the circulation of a video involving CMU students on identifiable CMU property using racial slurs, and the same racial slurs being used by a staff member at a listening session for the original issue.

"This video, like all incidents of bias and discrimination, is harmful to our community," President Bob Davies wrote in a university-wide email Monday afternoon. "Instead of fostering a sense of belonging, they can make our students, faculty and staff feel unwelcome or unsafe.

"We want to make CMU a community where everyone feels welcome, supported and empowered to succeed."

But the listening session that followed prompted another mass email from the office of the president — this time an apology.

"I learned late this afternoon that, during today's discussion, a CMU staff member used an inappropriate and highly offensive word," Davies wrote in a second email Monday evening. "I am deeply sorry that this happened, especially because it happened in a space that was intended to be a safe space for dialogue and support.

"Students have every right to feel frustrated, angry and hurt. That use of discriminatory, offensive and racist language has no place in our university community."

KB Chapman is a freshman transfer student at CMU coming from a historically Black university, Virginia State University.

With it being Chapman's first time on a predominantly white campus, when she first heard about the racial slur videos, she said she knew it was going to happen. But she did not expect it to happen this quick after being here for four months.

While in attendance at the listening session on April 15 where the CMU staff member repeated the racial slur, in that moment, Chapman said she felt that students needed to start a petition. So she did.

"At first, when we were listening, before she (the staff member) spoke, we were listening and we tried to understand them," she said. "But once you said the N word, it caused a big gray cloud in the room; all over again it felt like we went nowhere."

The petition Chapman started is to advocate for a policy to be put in place at CMU for racial discrimination. It currently has about 1,800 signatures.

"No matter if it is a racial community ... no matter if it's a gender community, no matter if it's a disability community, they need to be expelled, or fired, or whatever they need to do," Chapman said.

In an email from Davies on April 17, providing an update on actions that have been taken and the next steps, he mentioned the petition and demonstrations from students and said they have offered additional spaces to be seen, heard and supported.

"As we use your recommendations to strengthen our offerings and our community, we will be intentional about finding multiple ways to provide updates on our progress," he wrote in the email.

After the listening session that took place on the evening of April 16, Chapman said she felt like the university now understands where students are coming from because the Board of Trustees was there.

Jo Kenoshmeg | Visuals Editor Photo
Central Michigan University students pose with their signs during a stationed protest Wednesday, April 17, on the Bovee UC front lawn.

She said one trustee spoke up and said they are trying to help students, and they will not allow these issues to slide.

"But we felt like as a whole, they need a policy change," Chapman said. "Because there is no way that you are still racist and discriminating against a whole community, and you are getting away with it. ... That's why they (the students in the video) did it. They saw it happen, and (thought): 'Oh we are gonna get away with this stuff, nobody cares'. No, we do care, and now you're gonna get what you deserve."

In the Wednesday email from Davies, he said the individual in the video identified as a CMU student has been suspended and is no longer on campus, and the staff member has been separated from the university.

According to Chapman, on April 16, more videos surfaced of other CMU students saying racial slurs, but she is not sure the university has been made aware since they just came out.

Chapman said CMU is trying its hardest to address the situation it knows about.

"But if a policy was in place for racial discrimination at CMU, situations like this won't happen again," she said.

In his April 17 email, from Davies wrote that changes to policies, processes and procedures do not happen as quickly or as visibly as the university would like, and there is much work to be done.

"I want to offer assurance that this work is happening, and that it will continue to happen, and that we will never stop looking for ways to make our community more inclusive, supportive and empowering," he wrote in that Wednesday message.

Professor Alan Rudy teaches in the School of Politics, Society, Justice and Public Service, and said his students have noticed that fewer minority students returned after the pandemic — and efforts to recruit them have had "low levels" of success since 2021.

According to the university's fall semester enrollment statistics, the number of BIPOC students has fallen since the pandemic.

- 2019: 4,240 BIPOC students
- 2020: 3,867 BIPOC students
- 2021: 3,299 BIPOC students
- 2022: 2,949 BIPOC students
- 2023: 2,681 BIPOC students

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That change does happen at the same time as an overall enrollment decline, but the average decline in overall enrollment is close to 6.5%. For BIPOC students, that average is closer to 10.5%.

"Many students have noticed how few U.S.-born faculty of color teach at CMU and were not surprised when they learned that the university had more — especially in CLASS — a decade or more ago. But those lines were not filled - and their courses have been taught less often, - as minority faculty retired or left," he said.

Rudy pointed out that this is not an isolated issue, and it may be a larger consequence of failed branding.

"I do believe that the student videos and offensive mis-step in the listening session are an indication of a decade or more of crisis management that ... has de-emphasized building a culture of equity and justice; one that not only recognizes but seeks our shared humanity across difference" Rudy said.

"Nothing the university has done has caused either incident, but the university has done far too little to reduce the likelihood of such incidents."

Rudy said the statement in the "We Do" campaign erases faculty, student-faculty collaboration, social justice, critical thinking, global competencies and environmental sustainability.

"We say 'We Do' things and get jobs, but what it is exactly we do, how we do it, and with whom and with what meaningful results is not clear in the branding," he said. "CMU must change with the times by transforming, rather than eliminating what made the university special in the past."

Rudy advised that students stick together, support each other and work together to create change.

"We all spend far too much time alone with ourselves or feeling alone in classes, where we live, where we work, and as we shop and exercise," he said. "It's a risk to meet and collaborate with others, and it takes time to build real connections and shared activities, but those things, those relationships, those social processes are the spice of life."

Jo Kenoshmeg | Visuals editor

Central Michigan freshman Chioma Asomugha holds a sign during a stationed protest, Wednesday, April 17, on the Bovee UC front lawn. The protest moved inside the UC after it started to storm.

Opinion: Our take on events of the week

By Nico Mendoza and Lauren Rice
Visuals Editor and News Editor

Nico Mendoza

Administrators and those in charge of CMU's student body must grasp the importance of recent events on campus. These events are not isolated, but rather a pattern of unaddressed and uneducated behaviors.

These behaviors have occurred for years, with little or no effort to address the elephant in the room — how long will CMU tolerate behaviors that negatively impact the BIPOC community?

The BIPOC student body is used to show diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus when, internally, the DEI efforts that are supposedly used to support and attract BIPOC students to the university are falling apart.

I came to CMU hoping to pursue my academic career and ambitions of graduating from a university where I am proud to hold a degree. This hope did not last long.

This campus was supposed to be a place where I could thrive and connect with others who had similar identities to me, yet I was met with resistance due to the color of my skin. Now, I feel ashamed to hold a degree from CMU due to the state of the university — mainly its approach to attaining and executing DEI efforts.

My father did not risk his life in seeking a better life for his children just for them to be dismissed due to their skin color.

The ignorance and unwillingness of others concerning historical events that have impacted and influenced generations of BIPOC individuals is one of the many reasons why CMU must address bias incidents immediately with direct actions showing accountability and sincerity.

Experiencing racism is a daily battle that many of us BIPOC students face, and not one we wish to experience at an educational institution.

When racism is brought and harbored in educational institutions once thought to be safe from the harsh realities of the outside world, they become unwelcoming and foreign to BIPOC individuals, — especially when this was an opportunity for them to prosper and be comfortable in their own skin.

Responses have varied, from supportive of those impacted to showing ignorance:

"It's just a word. Others can use it,"

"CMU is in the middle of nowhere. Of course others will use those words."

'This happens in the real world; get used to it."

And to simply put it, these responses show the educational gap that CMU needs to address with its students regarding BIPOC cultures and history. We are on land that belongs to the Anishinaabe people. Shouldn't DEI efforts be CMU's first priority when educating its student body?

But it seems, that we are not enough for important measures to be implemented at an institutional level.

Lauren Rice

As a writer, it is rare that words fail me. It is not rare, in recent days, that I am disappointed. And this week has revealed that there is a lot to be disappointed in: Staff members who will speak racial slurs; students who would be so shameless as to post them.

Most of all, I'm disappointed that it got this bad. This is not the first time for this problem, and if I'm being realistic, it won't be the last until this university decides to take it seriously.

But what would that even mean? If you asked most people, they would condemn the use of racial slurs, because despite recent evidence I still believe this is a kind, empathetic community. This problem is bigger than any one person. This — like most racism — is systemic.

At the beginning of the year, this newsroom called for the community to engage in difficult conversations. Here's your opportunity. The listening sessions are a start, but know that I will be watching and waiting for larger change, no matter how long that takes. I always love having good news to report.

I am not a racial minority, so I won't pretend to have a complete understanding of that experience. But I am trying to empathize. When the shock and anger fade, and sadness or anxiety set in, remember that you have friends in every corner — you are not alone. Equally important: you are not powerless.

History has shown change arise through the voices of college students for generations. We stand on the shoulders of giants who have shown that love is powerful. Remember: when we choose love, we will not lose.

'Be unapologetically yourself'

LGBTQ athletes' journeys to authenticity

By Hadlee Peters
Sports reporter

April is pride month at Central Michigan University. Athletes, coaches and support staff across the United States and the world who are members of the LGBTQ+ community are working to make sports an inclusive environment where everyone can participate and be comfortable enough to share their identity.

Specifically at CMU, representation across sports can be seen through three women who offer their unique perspectives on finding themselves and their journeys.

Brittini Merchant

Brittini Merchant grew up in a sports household. Her and her three sisters all played softball at the collegiate level.

"I think my first word was 'ball,'" Merchant said.

Merchant is now the assistant coach for Central Michigan softball, in a full-circle moment from playing for Margo Jonker as a CMU athlete in 2008.

CMU is also where Merchant grew the confidence to be her true self as part of the LGBTQ+ community.

"It was a 'secret,' but everybody had an idea," Merchant said. "I just wasn't comfortable enough to actually come out. I think my senior year I was the most comfortable with who I was."

Merchant came out as lesbian during her fifth year at CMU, in her last semester.

"When you look back it's like, if I would have come out what would have been different?" Merchant said. "The pressures I put on myself of I mean just competing at the highest level and doing well with that, but then also having this like secret, people might want to say."

She said coming out made her feel more free, and she gained more confidence in all aspects of her life.

"When I'm being my authentic self, then I'm free to let other people be their authentic self and be like, 'Oh look at her she coaches softball at Central Michigan, she's a lesbian, she's married to a woman and she's just as happy as I could be,'" Merchant said.

Merchant said she did not start dating her wife until she was the assistant coach at Davenport University.

"She's my biggest supporter and my biggest fan," Merchant said. "After a game I go up to my wife, younger players went, 'Oh wow, like this is normal, this can be normal. This can be accepted.'"

As a coach, Merchant has been there to help other athletes who are going through the same things that she went through when she was an athlete.

"You connect a little bit more when you're like, 'I went through that too,'" Merchant said. "I've got an open-door policy all the time, and they're more than welcome to talk about anything."

Merchant said surrounding yourself with a solid support system and just being yourself is important.

"I can't stress enough to just be unapologetically yourself, be your most authentic self all the time," Merchant said. "People will love you no matter what, and if they don't then they don't need to be a part of your life."

Another person who has played a role in Merchant's life as a supporter is, her boss, CMU softball head coach McCall Salmon.

"My wife and I got married in Mexico in November of 2022. Her husband and her two kids came so it's been fun to see the impact that I've actually had on her kids because they're like 'it's totally normal,'" Merchant said.

"I mean there's a lot of adults who haven't gone to a lesbian wedding or two males getting married, so that's been fun to watch."

Faith played a part in Merchant coming out and finding acceptance in a religious community, as well.

"I think that was part of my struggle of coming out was because I grew up in the church," Merchant said. "It was hard for me to be like, 'If he knows me, why was I born this way?' But I found a church where it's like no, 'you're loved and accepted no matter what.'"

Keeping faith in her life while coming out as gay, Merchant said, was life changing.

"It was my senior spring break, and I found this website and I was like 'yeah there are people out there that accept me,'" Merchant said. "Being a gay Christian is unique, and I fully believe that I was made the way I am, he loves me no matter what."

Merchant said she wonders if her story might have been different if she grew up in a church that was more accepting.

"The church I grew up in, it was not ok, it was very clear that it was not okay," Merchant said. "Once I found a church that was like 'we welcome you and love you no matter your race, your ethnicity, your sexual orientation,' I was like this is exactly what I needed."

Toccara Ross

Toccara Ross started playing basketball when she was 12 or 13. At first, she thought she would go on to play college soccer, but once she started playing basketball, she realized it was more fun.

Originally from Chicago, Ross moved in high school to Iowa where she continued her basketball career.

"I took an untraditional path," Ross said. "I went to junior college and then I worked my butt off and got to play at the Power Five, which is the top of the top, I got to play for an elite eight which is the top eight schools in the country."

Nico Mendoza | Visuals editor
CMU lacrosse player Alyssa Lowe poses for a portrait in Wightman Hall.

Following her time playing basketball at Kirkwood Community College, Ross transferred to Iowa State and was a part of the Cyclone's Elite Eight tournament run in 2009.

Ross said she didn't really have to come out as queer, it's just always been who she was.

"I think every queer person, we have to come out to ourselves first and what that looks like and then everything else matters," Ross said. "That's the game we kind of play in our head, whether or not we're comfortable with ourselves enough to share it with the world.

"I've always felt comfortable in myself, but then in order to be able to articulate that to other people ... happened a little later in life."

Ross said her professional basketball career helped her transition from a player into a coach, which played a part in her identity.

Ross played professional basketball internationally as well where she was able to find community despite being far from home.

"I played pro for 15 years, so in that space you see a lot of people who one, look like you, two who are a part of the community so it's a little bit easier for you to navigate," Ross said. "You have a different set of freedoms as a professional athlete, you have a privileged life as a professional athlete, so it's a little bit different."

Ross said her vulnerability is a factor in identity. For those trying to find their identity, she said it's important to check in and decide what needs to be prioritized to feel comfortable in their body and space.

"I had already knew who I was stepping into my coaching career," Ross said. "So that I didn't have to articulate that to anybody, so being able to stand in my truth. I don't know if it

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helps me coach better, but I would hope that my players, a lot of my players who do identify, is that they are able to be themselves around me."

Ross's international career includes a Swiss League Championship and being named the player of the year in Puerto Rico's top professional league Baloncesto Superior National Femenino.

"I think Europe and the world outside of the Western culture has always been more open to queerness outside of the Americas that history tells us that so I think that process of showing up as a queer person was a bit easier," Ross said.

"I feel like you can always find your people if you look for them." "I fortunately did not have an issue finding people who look like me and who are part of the LGBT community, but I also sought them out."

Ross being comfortable in her identity has allowed her to help the athletes she coaches who are a part of the community.

"I think our staff is very unique in the coaching world because we do have multiple people that identify as queer," Ross said. "Our head coach (Kristin Haynie) is openly queer, has a wife, so that really helps, I hope that just being in my body and being confident in my body that they see who I am they see that I am also vulnerable, that leads to them being vulnerable."

Along with having an open door to talk about identity with her athletes, Ross is also an ambassador for Athlete Ally, an organization that creates groups to help students feel safe specifically in college.

Athlete Ally has helped to pioneer reform for LGBTQ athletes around the world. The organization has worked at the collegiate level to co-author the NCAA's first policy and resource guide on LGBTQ issues for coaches, athletes and administration.

"There's a lot of knowledge and there's a lot of policy involved into being heard and that platform not only, amplifies the voice of student athletes and pro athletes to be able to implement change," Ross said. "So as a pro ambassador, as a former pro player I get to sign on to legislation."

Ross said one of the ways college athletics could improve is by creating more inclusive spaces, particularly at CMU.

"I had at a couple other of my universities we had not only Athlete Ally, but we had queer spaces for student athletes," Ross said. "I personally don't know if there's anything like that available on campus or what queer spaces are available on campus, more specifically for minority students as well," Ross said.

Students who may be struggling to find community, Ross said, should start building that community themselves.

"Build a table, build space, what you don't see you have to create, you can't wait for someone else to do that," Ross said. "I know a lot of the discussions that I have with young people who are part of the community is, 'Oh well, I don't see this and I don't see that' build it, create it."

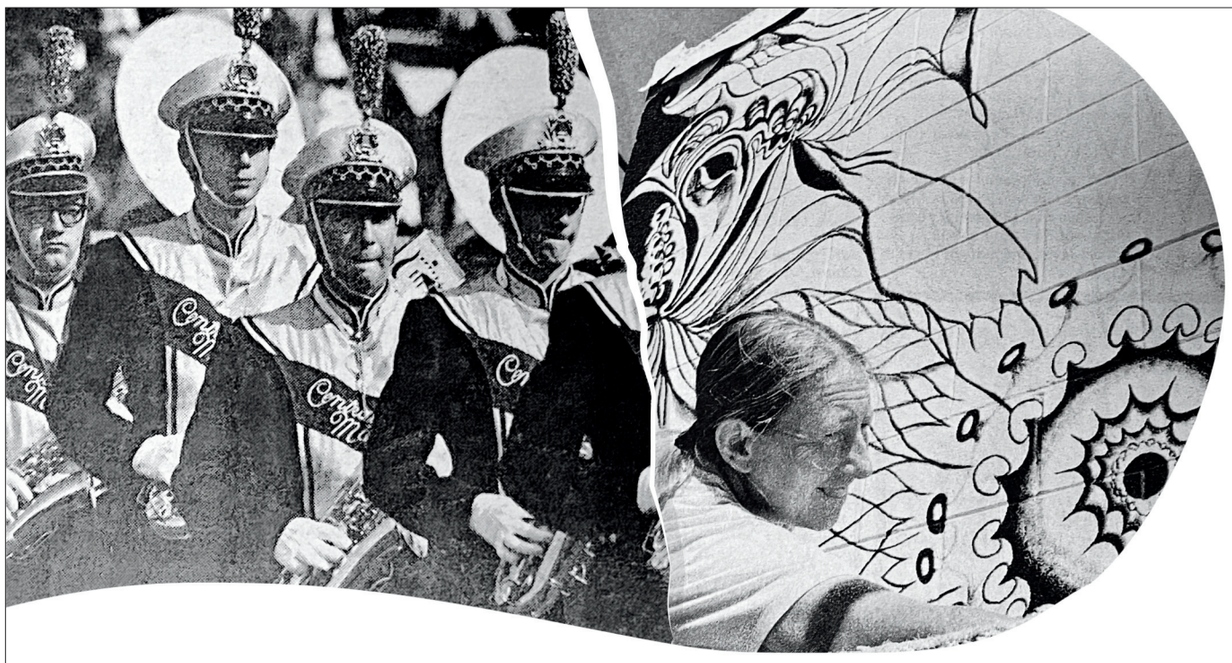
Ross said LGBTQ and BIPOC students and student athletes cannot rely on people not a part of their communities to make the first move when it comes to change.

"You can't wait for cis people to do that, you can't wait for non-POCs to do that," Ross said. "You have to just do it on your own and you have to create the space because I can almost guarantee that there's someone else out there feeling the same vulnerability and having the same need."

Ross said people who are not a part of the LGBTQ or minority communities have to listen to those communities.

Toccara Ross

"Listen to Black and brown folks, listen to women and non-binary folks, because again they are still the most marginalized within that group," Ross said. "Listen to them and allow them to help you co-create what those organizations look like. A lot of the LGBTQ community and organizations are underfunded



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Brittini Merchant

because the allies do not understand the necessity of resource."

Ross said the LGBTQ community needs allies to help navigate spaces because they take up larger spaces themselves.

"So if someone is reading this, I really want them to tap into their vulnerability and create those shared spaces because I know they are necessary in order for us to shift change and be on the right side of history as a lot of these legislations and platforms are changing," Ross said.

Alyssa Lowe

Alyssa Lowe has played lacrosse for 12 years. Her brother played lacrosse and that led her to also become interested in the sport.

Her brother was also supportive in her journey coming out as lesbian to her family.

"Actually coming out to them was scary, but they've been very accepting afterwards," Lowe said. "My brother knew before my parents, so he helped me come out to them, so that was nice."

She is now in her freshman season at CMU.

"Just try to be comfortable being yourself," Lowe said. "Most people are supportive of it, and if they're not then they don't deserve to be in your life."

Lowe is from Plainfield, Illinois, which she said is a pretty liberal town where she felt comfortable being who she is.

"All of my teammates have been very accepting," she said. "Sports is usually a heteronormative environment, but all my teammates are supportive and I haven't been treated differently because of it."

Lowe came out her freshman year of high school.

"When I was a senior, I was a captain on my team, and I had a freshman, she kind of just saw me talking about like my love life and girls and stuff, and that kind of inspired her to come out," she said. "I just want younger athletes to be comfortable being themselves and embrace not hiding their identity while they're playing sports."

Lowe said the staff and athletes are all open, supportive and inclusive, but she would like to see more programs within athletics for LGBTQ athletes.

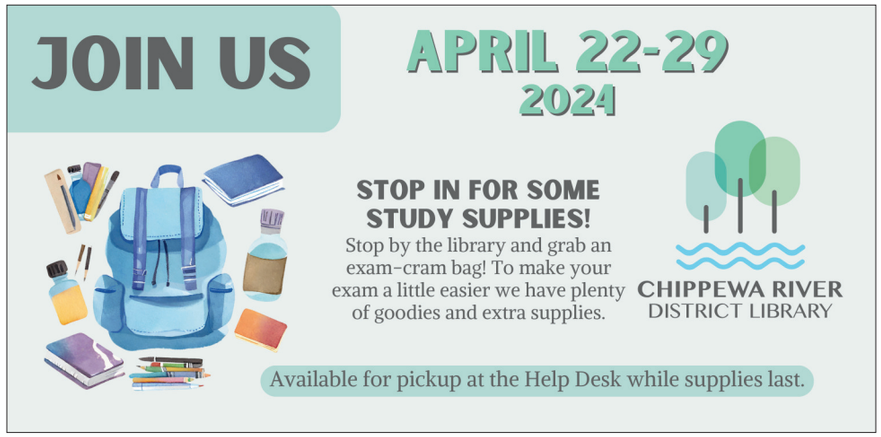
"Just to get like awareness out there would be nice maybe like a kind of support system for athletes who are struggling with coming out," she said.

Central Michigan athletics has a council for diversity, equity and inclusion that collaborates with the office of LGBTQ+ services.

"I know especially with sports sometimes people feel forced to hide who they are and just fit in with the team," Lowe said.

Lowe said she thinks it's important for athletes to be able to feel comfortable being themselves.

"I definitely feel more comfortable like not hiding being who I am and being able to talk to my teammates about my relationship, or whatever," She said. "It does feel more me and I love playing my sport, I feel like it would put a damper on that if I wasn't being myself."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Students speak up for Autism Awareness Month

By Jaden Merimee
Staff reporter

Alex Alma, the president of the Autism Spectrum Club (ASC) at Central Michigan University, said for a while she's known disabilities to be hushed and centered around shame. However, in recent years Alma said autism is becoming more than just being seen as a disability, but as a part of who she is as a person.

"It's a part of my identity, it's a part of who I am, and it's something that we're usually proud of," Alma said. "We're happy with who we are, and while it makes life more difficult in a lot of ways it also brings a lot of value to our life."

According to the National Institute of Mental Health: "Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn and behave."

Nearly five and a half million adults and one in 36 children in the United States have ASD, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

John Criger, the secretary of ASC at CMU, said people should recognize that every person who is autistic is different. He said that whether it's their experiences and struggles or their neurofunctions, autism is diverse and often misunderstood.

"Whether it's all of us being gifted or all of us being sort of infantilized, and that we need to be talked down to or treated like children to get to where we need to be, but many of us have arrived academically and socially and professionally, and a lot of us don't get the full credit or recognition we deserve by our neurotypical counterparts," Criger said.

According to the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, with roughly 550,000 autistic children transitioning into adulthood within the next decade, an expected 45% will enroll in a university, college, or technical or vocational school in the coming years.

Criger said one way people can support the autistic community is just by talking to them on the same level.

"We don't need someone to hold our hand our entire lives," he said.

Criger said he thinks people overall have been more understanding that autism shouldn't be suppressed in any way, but embraced— including the positive traits as well as the challenges that come with it.

"I think it's extremely beneficial that society is embracing people of all walks of life, and especially in regards to neurodiversity," Criger said.

Courtesy photo | John Crigert
Members of the Autism Spectrum Club celebrate during its 2023 Christmas Party.

Alma said she believes society is starting to change but only to an extent. She said one good thing is that society is moving away from the idea that autism is something that needs to be cured.

"I don't want my autism self to disappear and I think the majority of the autistic community feels that way like it is a part of who we are, so finding a straight-up cure is not something we're interested in," Alma said. "I think the good news is we're kind of moving away from that as a society, but I think there's still a lot to be done."

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Life through our lens

Jo Kenoshmeg | Visuals Editor

Custom Legos sit at a booth during the Grand Rapids Spring Fling Comic Con, Saturday, April 13, at the Kalamazoo County Event & Expo Center in Kalamazoo.

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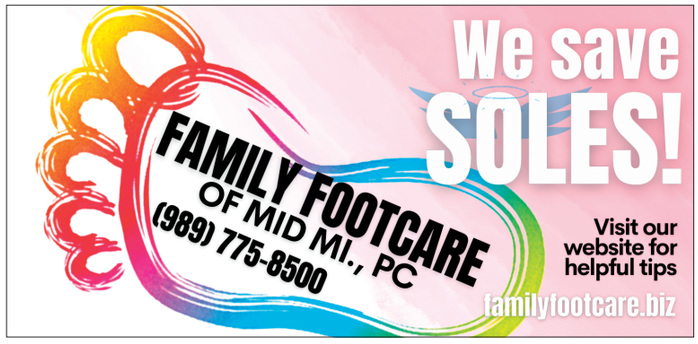

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AUCTION

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David Diehlman Estate. 2006 Ford F-150, John Deere riding lawnmower & accessories, rototillers, electric mower, solar panels, power tools, more! Bidding ends May 2. Bid. SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com to view catalogue, other auctions. 1-800-835-0495.

Spring Sporting Goods Auction, 3-wheeler, John Deere Gator, guns, ammo, vintage sporting goods, boat, minibike, lots more! Lots closing May 1. JohnPeckAuctions.com. Call John 989-426-8061. Facilities in Charlotte & Gladwin.

April Consignment Auction. Bidding ends April 29. C20 pickup, Honda Rebel 500, lawn/garden power tools, wood-working tools, vintage items and more. To view auction details, photos at NarhiAuctions.hibid.com. Questions, call 810-266-6474.

BUSINESS SERVICES

METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime asphalt shingles. Steel and vinyl siding. Hail damage. Licensed and insured builders. Pole Buildings. Quality work for 40 years! AMISH CREW. 517-575-3695.

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Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - $500 Discount + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501.

BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Superior quality bath and shower systems at AFFORDABLE PRICES! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 877-401-2404.

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're waiving all installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 9/30/23) Call 1-888-510-0901.

PROFESSIONAL LAWN SERVICE: Fertilization, weed control, seeding, aeration and mosquito control. Call now for a free quote. Ask about our first application special! 1-877-411-0998.

BUILT RITE POLE BUILDINGS Statewide. Prices starting at - 24x40x10 - $18,300.00. 30x40x10 -$20,400.00. Erected on your site. Call for price not shown on any size building or go to www.builtritepolebuildingsmi.com. Or call 989-259-2015 or 989-600-1010.

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AMISH BUILT storage sheds and mini cabins delivered to your site anywhere in Michigan! Starting at $2,500.00 mynextbarn.com 989-832-1866.

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Adjustable Bed Brand New with mattress. Made is U.S.A., in plastic, with warranty. Retail cost $3,995.00, sacrifice for $875.00. Call for showing or delivery: DanDanTheMattressMan.com 989-832-1866.

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VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL $99.00! 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-835-7273 Hablamos Español.

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 866-348-1952.

MISCELLANEOUS

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

MISCELLANEOUS

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-922-0420 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

TRAVEL

Alaska, Europe, Hawaii plus dozens of other popular trips! Starting at $1649 per person (double occupancy req'd.) YMT Vacations plans everything, leaving you to relax and enjoy. Call 1-855-958-4689 for more details. Use promo code YMT2024 for $250 off. Limited time only.

TV & INTERNET

HUGE SALE! Friday, April 19!
- Used DVD'S-2.00 off! (from 99 cents)
- Used Blu-Ray movies!
- Records & C.D.'s from $1.00!!
- 50-cent VHS MOVIES – 1,000s in stock!
- Used Games — PS3, PS4, Xbox One, 360, & Wii — ALL $2.00 off!
- Used Video Game Players!
- Used Laptops!
- NEW & USED — TV'S & STEREOS!
- $25 OFF HOME SPEAKERS — Paradigm!

We do HOME INSTALLS!
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701 N. Mission St., Mt. Pleasant
989-773-7370
msav@mainstreetaudiovideo.com

Ride for FREE!

NO FARE IS COLLECTED AT △ & ⌂ BUS STOPS

These stops are pre-paid, sponsored by our many partner organizations)

MAROON

Southpoint/Winchester	:15	:45	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Village at Bluegrass	:21	:51	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
University Meadows	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Union Square	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Target			UPON REQUEST
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	**:42**	**:12**	**EVERY 1/2 HOUR**
Washington/Ojibway	:44	:14	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Anspach/Pearce	:45	:15	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Ronan/Grawn	:47	:17	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Main St./Gaylord	:48	:18	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
MMC/DOAN CENTER			UPON REQUEST
Washington/Clayton	:05	:35	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Larzalere	:06	:36	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Wightman	:07	:37	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Park Library	:08	:38	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	**:12**	**:42**	**EVERY 1/2 HOUR**

GOLD

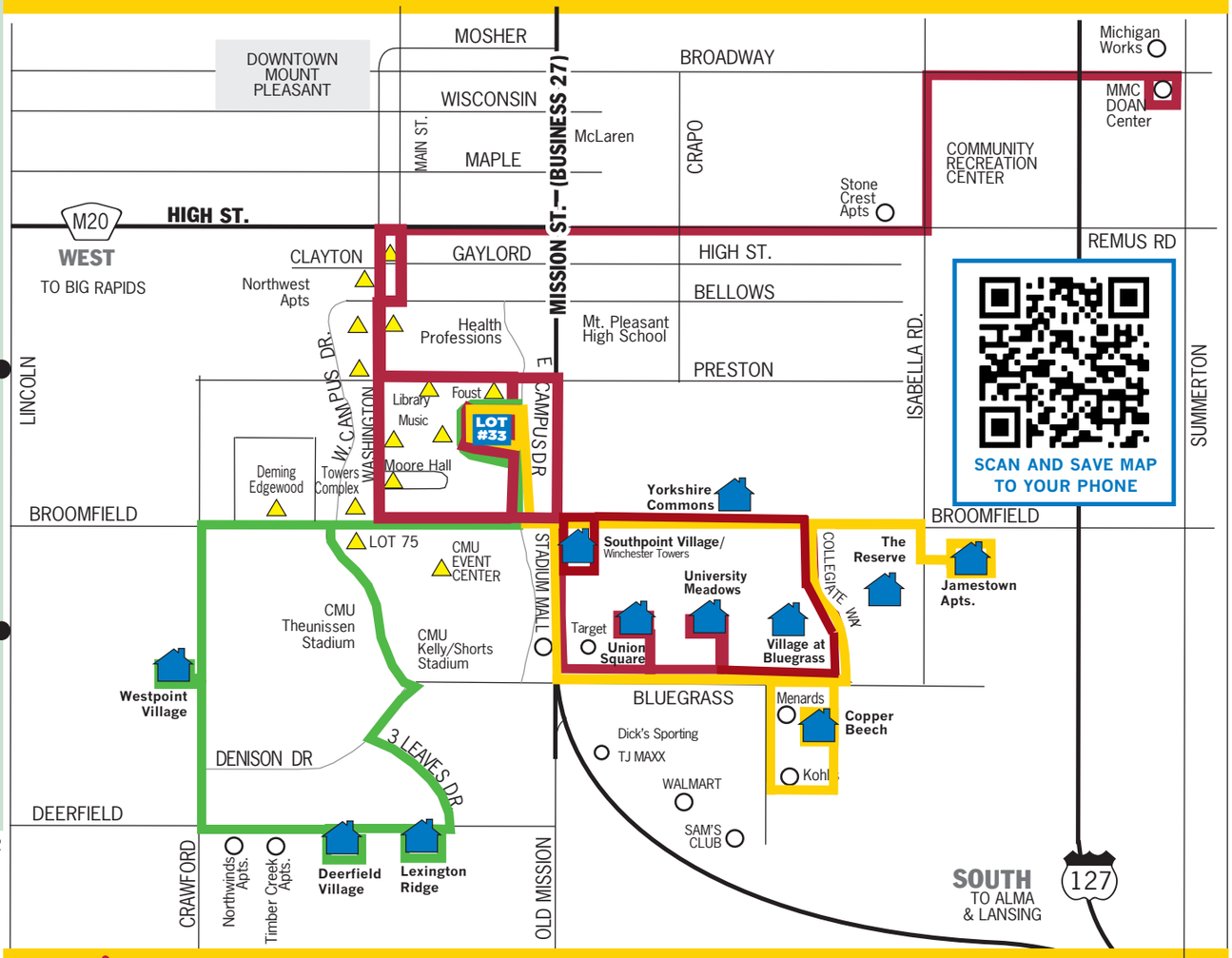
SAC/McGuirk	:13	:43	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Stadium Mall			UPON REQUEST
TJ Maxx			UPON REQUEST
Walmart			UPON REQUEST
Copper Beech	:26	:56	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
The Reserve	:28	:58	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Jamestown	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Yorkshire Commons	:33	:03	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	**:42**	**:12**	**EVERY 1/2 HOUR**

DEERFIELD

TOWERS @7/11	:15	:45	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deming Edgewood	:16	:46	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Westpoint Village	:18	:48	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deerfield Village	:20	:50	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Lexington Ridge	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Theunissen Stadium Lot#70	:27	:57	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Communter Lot #75	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
SAC/McGuirk	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Music Bldg. - Lot#33	**:42**	**:12**	**EVERY 1/2 HOUR**

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2022

COMMUTER SHUTTLE ROUTES



COMMUTER SHUTTLE:
MONDAY - FRIDAY 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

8:00PM & 10:30PM RETURN FROM PARK LIBRARY TO APT. COMPLEXES ONLY

REQUEST STOPS: ○ REGULAR FARE $2.00

EVERY HALF HOUR SHUTTLE STOPS:

△ **BUS STOPS**
No fare collected/prepaid stops by contract with our partners

⌂ **APARTMENT COMPLEX STOPS**
Rides for residents prepaid by complex

BE SEEN! Step to the curb and wave

I Ride

ictcbus.com

All buses flex 1/4 mile of published route, call ahead for service

COMMUTER SHUTTLE OPERATES LATE AUGUST THROUGH EARLY MAY
WHEN CMU CLASSES ARE IN SESSION

(989) 772-9441

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STYX

FRIDAY, MAY 3 | 8PM
$62, $76, $89, $96

TACOS & TEQUILA

TACOS & TEQUILA

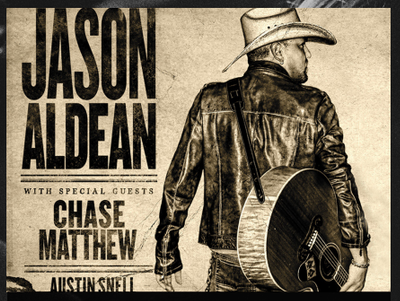
SATURDAY, MAY 11 | 6:45PM
$50

MÖTLEY CRÜE

SUNDAY, JUNE 23 | 7PM
$54, $144, $178, $209

LYNYRD SKYNRYD & ZZ TOP
THE SHARP DRESSED SIMPLE MAN TOUR

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 | 7PM
$38, $99, $117, $147



JASON ALDEAN
HIGHWAY DESPERADO TOUR 2024

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16 | 7PM
$54, $144, $178, $209

KEITH URBAN
WSG MORGAN WADE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24 | 8PM
$42, $124, $146, $163

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